

2.(Withdrawn)

3.(Withdrawn)

4.(Withdrawn)

5.(Currently Amended)      The method of claim 1, wherein said switching threshold is adjusted if the difference between the amplitudes of the pulses and said switching threshold exceeds said fixable first maximum value, and at the same time the difference between the extremes or the amplitudes and said switching threshold exceeds a fixable second maximum value.

6.(Currently Amended)      The method of claim 1, wherein said switching threshold is adjusted if the difference between the amplitudes of the pulses and said switching threshold exceeds said fixable first maximum value, and ~~at the same time~~ the difference of the amplitudes of two successive pulses exceeds a fixable second maximum value.

7.(Currently Amended)      The method of claim 1, wherein said switching threshold is adjusted if the difference between the amplitudes of the pulses and said switching threshold exceeds said fixable first maximum value, and at the same time the difference of frequencies of successive pulses exceeds a fixable second maximum.

8.(Withdrawn)

9.(Withdrawn)

10.(Withdrawn)

11.(Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said switching threshold is adjusted if the difference between the amplitudes of the pulses and said switching threshold exceeds the fixable first maximum, and at the same time the difference between the extremes or the amplitudes of the pulses and the variable switching threshold exceeds a fixable second maximum, and at the same time the difference between the amplitudes of two successive pulses exceeds a fixable third maximum.

12.(Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said switching threshold is adjusted if the difference between the amplitudes of the pulses and said switching threshold exceeds said fixable first maximum, and at the same time the difference between the extremes or the amplitudes and the variable switching threshold exceeds a fixable second maximum, and at the same time the difference of the frequencies of successive pulses exceeds a fixable third maximum.

13.(Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said switching threshold is adjusted if the difference between the amplitudes of the pulses and said switching threshold exceeds said fixable first maximum, and at the same time the difference of the amplitudes of two successive pulses exceeds a fixable second maximum, and at the same time the difference of the frequencies of successive pulses exceeds a fixable third maximum.

14.(Withdrawn)

15.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said switching threshold is adjusted if the difference between the amplitudes and the pulses and said switching threshold exceeds said fixable first maximum value, and ~~at the same time~~ the difference between the extremes or the amplitudes of the pulses and the variable switching threshold exceeds a fixable second maximum value, and ~~at the same time~~ the difference between the amplitude of two successive pulses exceeds a fixable third maximum value, and ~~at the same time~~ the difference of the frequencies of successive pulses exceeds a fixable fourth maximum value.

16.(Original) The method of claim 15, comprising an evaluation circuit receives said pulses and determines the relative angular position of the wheel and its instantaneous rotational velocity, and provides signals indicative thereof.

17.(Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the value of said switching threshold is increased if the difference of the amplitudes has a positive sign, and the value of said switching threshold is lowered if the difference signal has a negative sign.

18.(Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the value of said switching threshold is increased if the difference of the frequencies has a positive sign, and is lowered if the difference of the frequencies has a negative sign.

19.(Original) The method of claim 15, comprising the step of enabling the adjustment of said threshold signal if a received synchronization signal is valid.

20.(New) A method of detecting rotational speed and angular position of a rotating wheel with a non-contact sensor that provides a pulse train output signal, said method comprising:

comparing the amplitude of the pulses of the pulse train output signal with a variable threshold value; and

adjusting said variable threshold value to maintain the difference between the amplitudes of the pulses and said variable threshold value less than a first value.